



6200 Jefferson NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
Phone: (505) 761-4400 **Fax:** (505) 761-4462
Web site: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov

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NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 190-7-01

SUBJECT: ECS – NATIONAL BIOLOGY HANDBOOK

TO: ALL FO Employees

Purpose. To announce: 1) the new performance measurement, miles (MI), for reporting conservation practice standard 396 – Fish Passage, and 2) the availability in the National Biology Handbook, the new subpart D, Reporting Procedures for Conservation Practice Standards, Part 640, “Guidance for Assessing and Reporting Stream Miles Affected by Activities Completed Under Conservation Practice Standard 396, Fish Passage.”

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

Background. Conservation Practice 396, Fish Passage has been reported in number (No.). It has been determined that a more accurate assessment of the benefits to aquatic habitat was needed.

Explanation. 2006 revisions to the 396 standard resulted in changing the reporting unit from Number to Miles. This amendment to the National Biology Handbook provides concepts, methods, and information required to assess and report via the Performance Results System (PRS), stream miles affected by passage improvement or restoration activities completed under practice 396. The intent of this set of standardized methods is to ensure repeatability in PRS, as well as to quantify the biological effects of a given action on migratory aquatic animals. The online version of this guidance is available at <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. At this site, scroll to “Recent Updates,” the “Handbooks” and click on H.190.NHB: Handbooks.

Contact. For further information, please contact State Wildlife Biologist Marcus Miller at 505-761-4432.

/s/

DENNIS L. ALEXANDER
State Conservationist